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ANECDOTES
FROM
HISTORY

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ANECDOTES
FROM
ROMAN, ENGLISH, AND FRENCH
HISTORY,
SELECTED FROM THE MOST INTERESTING
PARTS OF HISTORY.

By A. H.

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PREFACE.

IN the following anecdotes, I have endeavoured to select the most interesting from the histories from which they are collected. History must ever hold a prominent feature in the education of children, and it is essential not to weary them by too close an application; but rather to render it an object of interest. It has thus been my endeavour to awaken that curiosity which most children possess, and to incite them to explore, as a pleasure, the long memories of the past.

A. H.



ANECDOTES

FROM

ROMAN HISTORY.

THE Romans were anxious to be thought descendants of the gods, and therefore claimed Æneas the son of Venus, and Priam king of Troy, for their ancestors. This much, however, we do know, that Numitor, king of Alba, and fifteenth in succession from Æneas, had a brother named Amulius, who conspired against him, dispossessed him of the throne, caused his two sons to be murdered, and his daughter Rhea Silvia to be made a vestal virgin; which office compelled her to perpetual celibacy. However, Rhea Silvia was confined with twins, who were immediately ordered to be thrown into the Tiber, and their mother to be buried alive. But the water being too shallow to drown them, they were cast on shore, where it is related they were found by Faustulus, the king's shepherd, with a wolf suckling them. Faustulus took them home to his wife, Acca Laurentia, and they brought them up as their own. Romulu

and Remus, as they were named, at length committing some offence against their uncle Amulius, —but who was ignorant of their relationship to himself,—Remus was brought before the king, when Romulus, who had gained intelligence of their secret, assembled some of the shepherds, killed the king, rescued his brother, and restored Numitor to the throne. They then agreed to build a city near the river Tiber, to commemorate their preservation; but in a quarrel which ensued during the building, Remus was killed by his brother, who was elected king of Rome, which was named after the founder.

During the reign of Tullus Hostilius, third king of Rome, the Romans having made several inroads into the Alban territories, a war ensued. The two armies were drawn out in array about five miles from Rome, when the Alban general stepping in between the two parties, offered to decide the victory by single combat. This was gladly accepted; and there chancing to be three twin brothers in each army, the Romans called Horatii, and the Albans called Curatii, these were selected for the combat. After fighting for some time with the most heroic fortitude, victory remained doubtful, till at length two of the Romans lay dead, while all the Curatii were wounded. The remaining Roman, seeing it would be in vain to

attack the three, pretended to fly. The Romans now gave up for lost the fortune of the day, and accused their countryman of cowardice; but suddenly they saw him return, attack the foremost Curatii, (for by this time they were separated as the Roman had wished); after killing him he advanced to the other, who likewise fell; while the third was likewise despatched. But the man who had fought so well for his country, returning in triumph to Rome, met his sister lamenting her betrothed, who was one of the Curatii. This so enraged him that he slew her on the spot; but in consideration of the deed he had just done he was pardoned.

Servius Tullius, sixth king of Rome, married his two daughters to the two grandsons of Tarquin, a former king of Rome. One of these daughters was remarkable for her proud and haughty temper, the same as one of the intended husbands; while the two others were of a mild and gentle disposition. To curb their violent tempers, Servius bestowed Tullia, his ungovernable daughter, upon the contrary character, while his other daughter was given to the haughty prince, Tarquin. Tarquin and Tullia soon grew dissatisfied with their respective consorts; and, placing their affections on each other, resolved, by murder, to be free to espouse each other. This they shortly after accomplished,—the one killing his

wife, the other her husband, and were then shortly after united. The wicked Tullia now wishing her husband to possess the crown, incited Tarquin to murder her father, and his bleeding body was then thrown into the street as a public spectacle. Tullia impatient to salute her husband as king, drove to the senate house; but in the way the charioteer saw the poor old king lying in the road. The man, wishing to avoid his horses treading on the dead body, offered to turn another way; but the heartless daughter, impatient of any obstacle, threw her footstool at his head, and ordered him to drive on without delay.

Sextus, eldest son of the wicked Tarquin and Tullia, was as depraved as his parents. History tells us that Tarquin being unsuccessful in his endeavours to take the city of the Gabii, he caused Sextus to take refuge with the inhabitants, alleging that he was compelled to flee from the cruelty of his father. This stratagem was successful, and the unsuspecting people elected him their governor; when he found means to betray the city to Tarquin. After this, Sextus deeply wronging Collatinus, a noble Roman, Junius Brutus, a reputed idiot, whose father had been murdered by the king, and who had adopted this disguise to save his own life, hearing of the conduct of Sextus to his friend, exclaimed, "From this moment I

profess myself the enemy of Tarquin and his house; from henceforth shall this life, while life remains, be employed in opposition to tyranny, and for the happiness and freedom of my much-loved country." He then prevailed upon the senate to banish Tarquin and his family from Rome.

After the expulsion of Tarquin it was determined to abolish the regal power, and to introduce a new form of government. Two magistrates were annually elected called Consuls. Brutus and Collatinus were the two first chosen. But a party of young Romans united to restore Tarquin. Amongst this number chanced to be the two sons of Brutus, and the nephews of Collatinus. Their meetings were held in the house of one of the conspirators; but a slave being accidentally concealed, overheard their conversation, and then informed the Consuls of the whole affair. They were all taken, and among them the sons of Brutus. But he did not allow human feeling to interfere with his stern sense of duty. After demanding three several times whether they had aught to say, and not receiving any answer, he turned to the executioner and exclaimed, "Now it is your turn to perform the rest." They were then whipped with rods, and afterwards beheaded.

Tarquin, still persisting in his attempts to regain

the throne, prevailed upon Porsenna to espouse his cause. Porsenna laid siege to Rome; but the Romans withstood the siege with great fortitude; till at length they could hold out no longer, when Mutius, a youth of the greatest heroism, disguised himself as an Etrurian peasant, and entering the camp of the enemy, made his way to the place where Porsenna was conferring with his secretary. Mutius, mistaking the secretary for the king, stabbed him to the heart. Upon being questioned, he boldly avowed his object, and putting his hand into some fire that was burning on an altar before him, said, "You see how little I regard the severest punishment your cruelty can inflict upon me. A Roman not only knows how to act, but to suffer." Porsenna, struck with admiration at his heroism, generously pardoned him, and then offered peace to the Romans, upon such conditions as were gladly accepted.

Coriolanus, a Roman patrician, who had distinguished himself in an attack on the Volscii, when he took Corioli, one of their principal towns, from which he derived his name of Coriolanus. Having disgusted the people by inciting the senate to severe measures against them, he was condemned by the tribunes of the people to be thrown headlong from the Tarpeian rock, the usual punishment for criminals; but upon a

second trial this was reduced to perpetual exile. Coriolanus received his sentence with calm indifference, and, after bidding adieu to his family and friends, and committing them to the care of Heaven, sought amongst the enemies of his country that refuge which had been denied him at home. This was offered him by Tullus Attius, king of the Volscians, the very people whom he had formerly assisted to conquer. Tullus, desirous of regaining those places which had been wrested from him by the Romans, raised an army, of which Coriolanus and Tullus became generals. They attacked and defeated several of the Roman allies, and at last encamped at the head of a numerous army within five miles of Rome. The Romans, thus pressed to their very walls, began to humble themselves to the man they had before treated so harshly ; they sent to him, begging he would withdraw the army, and they would restore him to the station he formerly held : but Coriolanus was not to be won by their entreaties. They then sent a deputation composed of the priests and augurs, but without avail. As a last resource, Veturia his mother, Volumnia his wife, and children, went accompanied by the principal matrons of the city. Coriolanus perceiving their approach, determined still to remain inflexible, but came down from his tribunal to meet and embrace them. The meeting was affecting : for

some time Coriolanus refused to grant their request ; till at length, overcome by their presence, he exclaimed, " O, my mother, thou hast saved Rome, but lost thy son." He then took leave of them, and gave instructions for the army to be drawn off. Tullus, who had before been envious of his glory, easily incited the people to rebel, and slay the unfortunate Roman.

After various forms of government, the Romans decided upon sending to Greece to collect such laws as by experience had been found best to answer. These were called the laws of the Twelve Tables ; and ten of the principal senators were elected to condense these laws into proper form ; they were called Decemviri, and were to continue in office for a year. After their twelvemonth had expired, the Decemviri were unwilling to resign their office, and begged for a continuance of it, alleging their task was not yet completed ; to this the senate consented. It chanced at this time, as Appius, one of the Decemviri, was administering justice, he saw a young girl of the most exquisite beauty, attended by a nurse, pass to one of the public schools. Appius fell in love with her ; and, having inquired who she was, learned that her name was Virginia, and that she was the daughter of Virginius, a centurion in the Roman army. The laws of the Decemviri prevented his

marrying her ; but he resolved to prevent her marriage with Icilius, formerly a tribune of the people, and to whom she was betrothed ; and therefore prevailed upon his friend Claudius to claim her as his slave. Appius professed to consider this claim just, and fixed the following day for the trial, when Virginius appeared, leading his weeping daughter by the hand. Virginius spoke eloquently to save his daughter, but Appius adjudged her as the property of Claudius. Virginius now calmly entreated to be permitted to take a last farewell of his beloved child. This request being granted, the wretched father took his daughter in his arms, till, watching an opportunity, he snatched up a knife he beheld, and, plunging it in her heart, exclaimed, "My dearest child, this alone can preserve your honour and freedom." Then holding up the knife he cried, "Appius, by this blood I devote thy head to the infernal gods." Then retiring to the army, he implored the soldiers to save their country. The soldiers, thus addressed, returned to Rome, and abolished the office of Decemviri, after a continuance of about three years.

Furius Camillus, tribune of Rome, was, by his merit alone, raised from a humble origin to eminence. Not being able to conquer the Falisci, he undermined the town, and then led his soldiers

into the midst of the place, after a siege of ten years. Camillus upon his return entered Rome, having his chariot drawn by four milk-white horses, which excited the anger and jealousy of the people. The Falisci afterwards revolting, Camillus again took the field against them. A schoolmaster, who had the care of the children of the principal men of the city, offered to surrender them to Camillus, as a sure way to compel the inhabitants to submit. Camillus, struck with horror at the treachery of this man, at length exclaimed, "Execrable villain, offer thy abominable proposals to creatures like thyself, and not to me ; we fight not against innocence, but against men—men who have used us ill indeed, but yet whose crimes are virtues, when compared to thine." He then ordered him to be stripped, his hands tied behind him, and then to be whipped into the town by those very scholars he would have betrayed. Camillus, after this, when he returned to Rome, met with such ingratitude, that to avoid being brought to trial for some supposed offence, he determined to leave Rome ; and, lifting up his hands to heaven, entreated they might one day be sensible of their ingratitude and injustice.

Soon after the exile of Camillus, the Gauls, under the command of their king, Brennus, advanced against Rome ; and, defeating the army

sent to intercept their progress, reached the very gates of the city, which they found open, and the walls defenceless. This they concluded was a stratagem to trepan them : however, they entered and advanced to the Forum, where they beheld the ancient senators sitting unmoved and undaunted, and observing the most profound silence. The venerable and majestic gravity of these noble men impressed upon the barbarians the idea that they were the tutelar deities of the place. One of them, more bold than his companions, ventured to stroke the beard of Papirius, one of the number : this the Roman resented by striking the man to the ground. The infuriated Gauls then rushed upon them and slew them without mercy ; then setting fire to the city, they burned every house to the ground. Nothing now remained but the Capitol, which was strongly fortified, and which the Gauls next besieged. The Romans at length gave themselves up for lost ; when they were revived by the intelligence that Camillus, the man they had treated so unjustly, was marching to their assistance at the head of the citizens of Ardea and Veii. They were thus enabled to come to terms with Brennus, who consented to quit the city upon the payment of a thousand pounds weight in gold. But Camillus would not permit of this agreement, exclaiming, "It is the custom with

Romans to ransom their country with iron, and not with gold." He then compelled Brennus, with his army, to leave Rome.

During a war between the Romans and Latins, a neighbouring people, Manlius, the Roman consul, gave orders that no soldier should leave the ranks, under penalty of death. Both armies were drawn out in array, when Mutius the Latin general, challenged any Roman knight to single combat. No one answered, till at length Titus Manlius, the Consul's son, burning with shame to see the challenge unanswered, accepted the defiance. After an obstinate encounter, Manlius succeeded in killing his adversary; and, despoiling him of his armour, returned in triumph to his father's tent. But the Consul, commanding him to be seized and led before the army, so that all should see his punishment, addressed him thus: "Titus Manlius, as thou hast regarded neither the dignity of the Consulship, nor the commands of thy father; as thou hast destroyed military discipline, and set a pattern of disobedience by thy example, thou hast reduced me to the deplorable extremity of sacrificing my son, or my country. Go, lictor, bind him; and may his death be our future example." His head was then struck from his body, to the horror of his companions in arms.

As the Romans had so exhausted the Italian

States by their repeated victories, they were obliged to have recourse to a foreign power to save them from ruin. Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, was the one chosen ; a man of great courage and power. He sent a body of three thousand men, and soon after sailed himself at the head of two thousand, with twenty elephants, to their assistance. Pyrrhus defeated them in the first battle ; but the Romans behaved so bravely, that Pyrrhus was heard to exclaim, "Oh ! with what ease could I conquer the world, had I the Romans for soldiers, or had they me for their king." At this time Fabricius was made consul, and led the Romans against Pyrrhus. A letter was brought Fabricius from the king's physician, offering, for a proper reward, to administer poison to his master, and thus release the Romans from a powerful enemy. Fabricius, indignant at this base proposal, despatched word to Pyrrhus, to inform him of the man's treachery. Pyrrhus, amazed at Fabricius's generosity, and his physician's duplicity, exclaimed, "Admirable Fabricius, it would be as easy to turn the sun from its course, as thee from the paths of virtue."

Carthage, a city on the coast of Africa, near where Tunis now stands, was colonized by the Phœnicians about one hundred and thirty-seven years before the foundation of Rome. Like the

Phœnicians, they were a great commercial nation, and celebrated for their riches. The Carthaginians, reposing in their wealth, resolved to turn their arms against the Romans, and at first defeated them. But that brave people, being led on by their consul Regulus, in turn defeated the Carthaginians. The Carthaginians again, by the assistance of their allies, defeated Regulus, and took him prisoner. Regulus was confined for years in a dungeon, when at length the Carthaginians, ardently desirous of peace, from their frequent defeats, thinking he would be an effectual mediator, despatched him to Rome, promising, if he procured peace, great rewards; but if, on the contrary, he did not return with the wished-for intelligence, the most cruel death. Regulus, after promising to return, accompanied by the Carthaginian ambassadors, set sail for Rome, where he had the magnanimity to advise his country to continue the war. In vain they implored him to remain; he was firm in his intention of returning. His wife and children strove in vain to persuade him to alter his resolution. He was obstinate; and, taking leave for ever, returned to Carthage, bearing the Roman defiance. His enemies, infuriated at hearing that, instead of hastening a peace, he had given his advice for continuing the war, hastened to put in practice all that cruelty

for which Carthage had so long been famous ; and Regulus expired in the most excruciating torture, a lasting memorial of what a brave man can do for the sake of his country.

Jugurtha was grandson of Masinissa, king of Numidia, an ally of the Romans against the Carthaginians. He was educated with the two young princes, Hiempsal and Adherbal, the inheritors of the kingdom. Jugurtha, being led away by his ambition, and being very popular with the people, aimed at the sovereignty ; to obtain which he murdered Hiempsal, and would have done the same to the younger prince ; but he escaped, and threw himself upon the protection of the Romans. Jugurtha then bribed the Romans to divide the kingdom between him and his relation ; which they did, giving Jugurtha the most beautiful part. For a time the tyrant behaved peaceably, until the timid Adherbal was thrown off his guard, when the perfidious Jugurtha besieged him in his capital, Cirta. took him prisoner, and then murdered him. The Romans now fitted out a powerful army against him to punish him for his treachery ; but the General allowed himself to be bribed, and remained an almost inactive spectator. The Roman people, indignant that the monster should remain unpunished, demanded that he should appear at Rome to answer any accusation.

Jugurtha was easily induced to take this step, and accordingly appeared in Rome, where he succeeded in bribing the Tribunes. This augmented the general indignation, and Jugurtha was ordered to quit Rome. Looking back on the city he had just quitted, "Oh Rome," cried he, "how readily wouldst thou sell thyself, if there were any man rich enough to become the purchaser!" Another army was despatched against him, but, like the former, it performed no action worthy of record, till Metellus was appointed consul, and sent to superintend the army in Numidia. In the short space of two years Jugurtha was compelled to leave his kingdom and sue for peace. A treaty was then concluded, which was shortly broken by the Numidian prince. Metellus was now recalled, and Caius Marius appointed general. By him Jugurtha was taken prisoner and carried to Rome, where he graced the conqueror's triumph, and was afterwards, by order of the senate, starved to death.

Julius Cæsar, one of the most remarkable men the world ever produced, was created prætor of Rome, and afterwards one of the triumvirate. For eight years he was engaged in subduing the Gauls and Britons, which he at length accomplished. Pompey, likewise one of the triumvirate, jealous of Cæsar's fame, which he feared

would eclipse his own, procured an edict from the Senate, which forbade any person to cross a certain river, called the Rubicon, with an army. Cæsar disobeyed this edict, and advanced to Rome at the head of his victorious troops. Pompey was then compelled to leave Rome, and, after many vicissitudes, was totally defeated by Cæsar. He now retreated to Egypt, where he applied to Ptolemy, king of that place, to receive him. Pompey in the height of his prosperity had been a great benefactor to Ptolemy's father, and therefore concluded he should meet with kindness in return. But in this he was miserably deceived; the Egyptians sent a boat to receive him from the ship in which he had sailed, but before he reached the Egyptian shore he was stabbed in the back as he was leaning on the arm of his freedman Septimius. They then cut off his head, intending to send it as a present to Cæsar to propitiate his favour, and his body was thrown on the shore. However, his faithful freedman washed it, and, collecting the wreck of a fishing-boat, made a pile, on which he burned the body. While thus performing this act of affection, an old Roman soldier, who had served under Pompey in his youth, approached; "Who art thou," said he, "that art making these humble preparations for Pompey's funeral?" Upon being told, "Alas!" said he, "permit me

to share in this honour : among the many miseries of exile, it will be my last sad comfort that I have been able to assist at the funeral of my old commander, and touched the body of the bravest general that ever Rome produced." They then collected his ashes and buried them, over which the following inscription was afterwards placed : "He whose merits deserved a temple, can now scarce find a tomb."

After the death of Pompey, Cæsar, being left without a rival, pursued that course of success which has rendered his name so celebrated. He sailed to Egypt, where one of Pompey's murderers presented him with his head, thinking to ensure a handsome present. But he turned away with horror and disgust, and then ordered a magnificent tomb to be erected over his ashes. At this time there were two pretenders to the Egyptian throne—Ptolemy, the acknowledged king, and the beautiful Cleopatra, his sister. As Roman Consul, Cæsar announced it as his duty to settle the succession ; and appointed a day for the brother and sister to appear before him to plead their respective causes. The young king, disdaining this arbitrator of his affairs, took the field against him, but was totally defeated by Cæsar, who burnt all his ships, and possessed himself of the isle of Pharos. In the mean time

Cleopatra resolved to have an interview with Cæsar, and try what effect her beauty would have upon him. For this purpose she embarked on board a small vessel, and in the evening landed near the palace where Cæsar was: she was then wrapped up in a coverlet and carried into the very chamber of the Consul. The impression she made on Cæsar exceeded her most sanguine expectations: he drove Ptolemy out of Egypt, and appointed Cleopatra and her infant brother joint governors. After a life of success and glory, Cæsar excited the jealousy of a party of his countrymen, who, resolving upon his death, murdered him in the senate-house, by inflicting no less than twenty-three wounds upon him.

After the murder of Cæsar, his nephew Octavius, but more generally known as Augustus, was elected emperor: he governed Rome wisely and firmly. He did not possess Cæsar's shining talents, but during his reign the Romans cultivated the arts with more assiduity than during the war-like administration of his uncle. That Augustus was grateful to all those whose assistance had contributed to place him in the high position he held, the following anecdote will serve to illustrate. A poor soldier who had fought bravely for him entreated his protection in a certain cause; but the Emperor took but little notice of the petition, and

referred him to an advocate. "Ah!" said the poor man, "it was not by proxy I served you at Actium." Augustus was so struck with the answer, that he pleaded the cause for him himself, and gained it.

Another anecdote is likewise related of Augustus, and Cornelius Cinna, grandson to Pompey, and who had fomented many conspiracies against him. Augustus sent for those implicated and forgave them; but sending for Cinna, he addressed him thus: "I have twice given you your life, first as an enemy, next as a conspirator; I now give you the consulship: let us, therefore, be friends for the future; and let us only contend in shewing whether my confidence or your fidelity shall be victorious. Cinna was so overwhelmed with shame at the Emperor's kindness, that he became one of his most sincere friends.

Caligula, fourth emperor of Rome, was one of the greatest monsters that ever disgraced royalty. His idiotic pride, wanton cruelty, and numerous inconsistencies, will for ever render his name odious. He built and dedicated a temple to himself, and was worshipped as a god; and then, to finish all, became a priest to himself. His horse, which became his principal favourite, had a stable of marble, and an ivory manger; he was invited occasionally to the Emperor's table, and fed with

gilt oats ; and it is supposed, if death had not prevented it, that he would have made it Consul. His wild beasts were fed with the bodies of criminals : one poor man, crying out that he was innocent, Caligula ordered him to be taken out, his tongue cut off, and then to be thrown into the amphitheatre again. Such was his cruel depravity, that he was heard to exclaim, he wished that all the Roman people had but one neck, that he might despatch them at a blow. At length his crimes made him so hated, that a party of conspirators concerted to destroy him. It was agreed to attack him during the Palatine games, when he retired to take some refreshment. But the day passed, and Caligula seemed determined not to retire ; till at length he was persuaded to do so by Cherea, one of the conspirators, who then struck him to the ground, saying, " Tyrant, think upon this !" The others rushing upon him, he was despatched, receiving thirty-six wounds, and after an execrable reign of barely four years.

Nero, sixth emperor, was the son of Agrippina, who had afterwards married her uncle, Claudius, the fifth emperor, whom she poisoned, after persuading him to adopt her son Nero, in preference to his own son. The Romans had at this time arrived at such a pitch of wickedness, that the murder of parents, children, &c. were of frequent

occurrence. Nero began his reign wisely and virtuously ; and, though but seventeen, he speedily secured the approbation of all his subjects. But when he had once firmly seated himself on the throne, he gave loose to the depravity of his nature, which rivalled that of the detestable Caligula. His mother, Agrippina, opposing him in some of his wishes, he attempted to poison her : this failing, he ordered a ship to be constructed, which, upon pulling a few bolts fell to pieces, to give it the appearance of shipwreck ; but this scheme also failing,—for Agrippina contrived to keep herself above the water till picked up by a trading vessel,—he despatched a body of soldiers, who, surrounding her house, the leader entered to despatch her. Agrippina seeing his intention, presented her bosom, saying, “ Strike here, for giving birth to a monster.” In his reign the greater part of the city was consumed by fire ; and most historians accuse Nero of being the cause, as he was often heard to wish some public calamity to happen to commemorate his reign. However, he laid the blame on the Christians, whom he persecuted in a dreadful manner.

After the reigns of nine or ten wicked emperors, we come to that of Titus, son of Vespasian, and one of the best monarchs of ancient or modern history. By him (in his father’s reign) Jerusalem

was taken, and, according to the sure word of prophecy, entirely destroyed, so that even the plough passed over where the city had been. Titus had loved Berenice, sister to Agrippa, king of Judea; but finding that union would not be agreeable to the Romans, he sent her away, although their love was mutual. Such were his constant benefits to mankind, that one day recollecting he had performed no beneficial action that day, he said to his friends, "I have lost a day." During his short reign his people enjoyed a peace they had long been strangers to; and Titus acquired the appellation of the "Delight of Mankind."

Domitian, Titus's brother, did not practise these virtues, but rather tried to exceed Caligula and Nero; he committed the greatest cruelties in the most capricious manner. Once he invited the comptroller of his household to dine with him, and the next day crucified him; another he carried in his own litter the day before he had him put to death. Another time he invited several senators to an entertainment: he received them with great ceremony at the entrance of the palace, and then conducted them to a hall hung round with black, and lighted by a few dim miserable lights: round the rooms were placed coffins, with the names of each senator written on them, together with instruments of torture. The affrighted company

viewed these preparations with dismay; when, to add to their horror, several men with their faces blackened, and a flaming torch in one hand, and a drawn sword in the other, entered the hall. The poor people expected to be put instantly to death, when the doors were set open, and a servant informed them that the Emperor gave them leave to depart.

Nerva, the succeeding emperor, was as remarkable for his gentleness and indulgence as Domitian had been for his cruelty and severity, as the following anecdote will serve to illustrate. Vicento, one of the late Emperor's most wicked favourites, being invited to supper with Nerva, the conversation turned upon the wickedness of Catullus Messalinus, likewise a favourite of Domitian, and detested for his cruelties. Each of the guests mentioning his name with disgust, Nerva asked one of them, "What do you think would become of such a man now?" "I think," he replied, turning to Vicento, "that he would have been invited, as some of us are, to supper."

About one hundred and ninety-two years after Christ, the soldiers, having killed the former emperor Pertinax, resolved to sell the throne to the highest bidder. Two presented themselves, one Sulpician, son-in-law to the late emperor, the other Didius, the wealthiest citizen in Rome.

Didius, it is said, was sitting quietly at dinner, when, hearing the proclamation, and, charmed with the prospect of reigning, repaired to the camp. Sulpician was there before him; but, having only promises to give, the riches of Didius prevailed, and he was elected emperor. Then addressing the Senate, who had it not in their power to refuse him, said, "Fathers, you want an emperor, and I am the fittest person you can choose." But the people openly insulted him when they saw him, crying out, "that he was a thief, and had stolen the empire." Didius behaved with so much cowardice and meanness, that he shortly gained the contempt of all his subjects, who resolved to assassinate him.

During the reigns of the later Roman emperors, it was the custom to associate two persons in the government, who were called Cæsars. Constantine, father of Constantine the Great, was one of these during the reign of Dioclesian. He was once reproached for his poverty; but had so gained the good wishes of his countrymen, that they no sooner heard this, than they brought such immense sums, that it excited astonishment in the beholders. Constantine exclaimed, "Learn from this, that the love of the people is the richest treasure, and that a prince's wealth is never so

safe as when his people are the guardians of his exchequer."

Constantine the Great, being on his march at the head of his troops against Rome to punish Maxentius, who had rebelled against him, suddenly saw a pillar of light in the heavens, in the shape of a cross, with the inscription, "In this overcome." Constantine, relying on Divine assistance, gave orders for a standard to be made, on which should be engraved the cross and inscription, and carried in front of the army as an emblem of Divine protection. Constantine still advancing, defeated Maxentius, who was drowned as he attempted to cross the Tiber. Constantine thus remained sole master of Rome. He then embraced Christianity, and ever after behaved with great kindness to the Christians.

ANECDOTES
FROM
ENGLISH HISTORY.

THE ancient inhabitants of England, who were called Britons, were a wild uncivilized race of people, living on berries, and the flesh of animals killed in hunting, the skins of which served them as clothing; and for habitations, caves and hollow trees. The Romans, who at that time had conquered almost all the then known world, were governed by a celebrated general, Julius Cæsar; and he determined to invade and conquer Britain. The inhabitants, gaining intelligence of this invasion, assembled at Deal to oppose their landing. The Romans perceiving the cliffs so well guarded, were irresolute how to act, till the standard-bearer leaped into the water, calling on the rest to follow. In a short time the unfortunate Britons were completely subjugated.

In one of their engagements the Romans took Caractacus, a British king, prisoner. He was a brave man, and had gained several victories; so

that the Romans were pleased when at length they made the poor king prisoner. He was loaded with chains, sent to Rome, and formed part of the pageant or show which was made for the victorious army. Caractacus, looking at the beautiful things which Rome contained, exclaimed, "Alas! how is it possible that a people possessed of such magnificence at home could envy me a humble cottage in Britain?" This so affected the Roman emperor that he set him and his family at liberty.

After the Romans had abandoned England it was invaded by the Saxons, a nation from the north of Germany. To one of these Saxon kings we are indebted for many wise laws and institutions. In his reign England was invaded by the Danes, and King Alfred was obliged to disguise himself, and take refuge in a shepherd's hut. The shepherd's wife, ignorant that he was the king, told him to take care of some cakes that were baking, that they did not burn. Alfred, who was thinking of his poor countrymen, who were in great distress, and was likewise trimming his arrows, suffered the cakes to burn. When the old lady came in, she scolded him, and told him he was an idle fellow; that he could eat the cakes, although he could not take the trouble to turn them. Soon after this, as Alfred wished to gain some intelligence of the plans of the Danes, he

disguised himself as a harper. Guthram, the Danish chief, hearing him play, was so much pleased with him, that he kept him some days in the camp. During this time the brave prince was enabled to see how secure they imagined themselves from any attack. Collecting his little band together, they totally routed the Danes, and at length compelled them to leave England.

An anecdote is told of Canute, one of the Danish kings of England, which illustrates that king's abhorrence of flattery. His courtiers having told him that he was master of both earth and sea, and that both would equally obey him, he commanded his chair to be brought to the sea-shore, and addressing the ocean exclaimed, "Thou art my kingdom, and the dry land is also mine; rise not!" But the sea still approaching, he turned to his courtiers, and after reproving them for their flattery, hastened to Winchester Cathedral, where he deposited his crown, and never could be prevailed upon to wear it again.

In the year A.D. 1066, we find William, Duke of Normandy, defeating Harold, king of England, at the battle of Hastings; by which event William became king of England. He had three sons who survived him. When young the two youngest princes, William and Henry, seeing their elder brother Robert in the court-yard, threw some water on him. Robert was so enraged that he

drew his sword, rushed up stairs, and would have no doubt injured his brothers, but for assistance coming to their aid. This quarrel caused a feeling of ill-will between the brothers, which was never entirely overcome. Robert soon after took the field against his father, when they engaged each other without being aware of their near relationship, as each wore his helmet, the vizor being down. William was greatly wounded, when his voice discovered him to his son, who, stung with remorse, threw himself on his knees, and begged forgiveness.

Henry I., at the time of his brother William's death, was hunting with him in the New Forest. An old woman came out of the woods, and prophesied that he should be king of England. They had not gone far before Sir Walter Tyrrel, a French knight, discharged an arrow at a deer, which glancing from a tree, which it had hit instead of the deer, entered William's heart. Henry, remembering the old woman's words, immediately hastened to London, and secured the crown.

In the reign of William II., the Christians were and had been accustomed for years to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, to visit the sepulchre of our Saviour. The Turks having gained possession of Jerusalem, treated the poor Christians very cruelly, and would not allow this. One poor monk, called Peter the Hermit, returned to Europe ; and

having gained the Pope's consent, travelled to most of the European courts, inviting all kings and princes to take up arms to rescue the Holy Land. Thus was commenced the Crusades, or Holy Wars, so called from the Crusaders, or those engaged therein, wearing the form of a cross on the left shoulder.

Henry I. had one son named William; his brother Robert likewise having a son. When William had attained the age of eighteen, Henry, thinking that after his death his son's claim to the dukedom of Normandy might be contested, took him to Normandy to receive the homage of the barons. On their return, the king's ship sailed before the one destined to convey the prince, the crew of which were intoxicated. The young prince, in a fit of impatience, wished to reach England before the king; the sailors, in their endeavours to do so, and already insensible to danger, soon lost all control over the vessel, which struck upon a rock called *La Raze Catte*. In their endeavours to escape, the dismayed men soon filled the boat, and amongst the number the prince, who was so horror-stricken at leaving his illegitimate sister, the Countess of Perche, who had accompanied them to Normandy, to perish, that he ordered the boat back to rescue her. This generosity of the prince caused the destruction of all; for those

left behind eagerly caught at the boat, which was already too full, and which overturned: thus all perished, except one poor butcher of Rouen, who saved himself by swimming. The captain seeing this poor man, swam up to him, and asked if the prince had escaped. Upon the butcher replying in the negative, the captain immediately sank, exclaiming, "that he would not survive the prince." King Henry was so affected when the melancholy news was told him, that he was never seen to smile again.

Thomas à Becket was archbishop of Canterbury. In the reign of Henry II., Gilbert à Becket, a citizen of London, had formerly been a Crusader. Whilst in Palestine he had become attached to a Saracen girl: when Beckett returned to England he was followed by his "ladye love," who could only speak the two words, "Becket," and "London." In those days London was a very different place in size to what it now is, so that with her slender stock of English the poor girl reached London, where she ran from street to street, calling "Becket!" In this way she discovered her lover, who then married her. Their son, Thomas, became a priest, and was remarkable for his great learning, which attracted the notice of Henry, himself a very learned prince; and as the king was much attached to him, he became

Chancellor. Becket now indulged in all sorts of luxuries, so much so that the king became jealous of him. After creating him Archbishop of Canterbury, it is said, as they were one day riding in the streets of London, they met a poor beggar; when the king said, "It would be a charity to give that poor man a coat." Becket agreed, and said, "You do well in thinking of such a good action." "Then," said the king, "he shall have one immediately;" with that he seized the Chancellor's cloak of scarlet and ermine, and gave it to the astonished beggar, very much to the discomfiture of his Chancellor, who by no means relished the affair. Becket afterwards assisted Henry's sons to rebel against him, besides proving himself a very turbulent subject; so that Henry wished him dead, and exclaimed, that "he had not one real friend out of all his courtiers, or else they would rid him of such a man." Four of his knights hearing this rash speech, instantly repaired to Canterbury, where they at length found the object of their search kneeling at the altar. Even the sanctity of the place did not save him, for they slew him on the very steps of the altar. The king was so shocked that he refused to see any one for three days; he then ordered a splendid tomb to be erected to his memory in Canterbury Cathedral; and then still further to appease the people, who

looked on Becket as a saint and martyr, he consented to do penance, and be scourged at his tomb.

Richard Cœur de Lion, or the Lion-hearted, from his courage and generous disposition, engaged in the Crusades with Philip of France. Whilst in Palestine, Richard was so distinguished for his bravery that he excited the envy of his princely companions. Philip, jealous of his superiority, persuaded the allies to leave Richard, if he persisted in remaining in Palestine; representing that the whole glory of the undertaking would be given to the English king, when in fact it belonged to much to them. Richard finding himself thus forsaken, was compelled to return to England: on his way, however, he was shipwrecked. He then attempted to pass through Germany in disguise as a pilgrim. Richard was unfortunately discovered by some rash act of generosity, was taken prisoner, and kept in imprisonment, unknown to all his subjects, by the Duke of Austria, his most bitter enemy, although engaged in the same Crusade with himself. It is said he was discovered through the fidelity of a favourite minstrel, called Blondel, who coming to the castle where his master was confined, sang a favourite air of the king's. Richard, thinking a friend was at hand, sang the song likewise. Blondel, convinced it was the king's voice,

returned to England, and procured his liberation.

In the reign of Edward I., Wales was annexed to the English crown. The Welsh were very brave; and Edward had to fight many battles before he conquered them. At that time there were many poets, or bards, as they were called; and these used to travel about with a harp, and sung warlike songs, which encouraged the people to fight bravely for their country. Edward cruelly ordered all these poor harpers to be put to death; as he thought by that means he should do away with the spirit of the Welsh. To reconcile them to their loss of liberty, he told them he would give them a prince that should not speak a word of English. The Welsh fondly hoped they were to have a prince of their own country, but great was their disappointment when Edward presented them his own son, a child of only nine months' old—who most certainly could not speak a word of English. This was the first Prince of Wales, a title which the King of England's eldest son has always since borne.

Edward III., in his French warfare, laid siege to Calais. This siege lasted eleven months, at the end of which time the inhabitants were reduced to such an extremity as to be compelled to eat dead cats, rats, old leather, and anything they could

procure, to satisfy the cravings of hunger. They at length capitulated; but Edward was so enraged at the obstinacy, as he termed it, they had displayed, that he insisted that six of the principal citizens should bring the keys of the city, bare-headed, and with ropes round their necks; and that then, and not till then, would he spare the lives of their countrymen. But his queen, Philippa, a good and virtuous woman, so interceded for the lives of these poor men that the king consented to pardon them.

A curious tale is told respecting the institution of the Order of the Garter, the highest order of knighthood in England. It is said that the Countess of Salisbury, being at a ball at which Edward III. was present, in dancing dropped her garter. Edward seeing his courtiers smile at the Countess's confusion, took up the garter, and put it on his own leg, exclaiming, "Evil be to him that evil thinks," which was retained as the motto of the Order. The king then instituted the Order, observing that those present had smiled at the garter, but many would think it an honour to wear such a one.

Henry, son of Henry IV., was a prince of dissipated and gay habits, but withal of a generous open disposition. From his many vagaries he acquired the name of Mad-cap Harry. He associated with companions as depraved as himself,

but who, I fear, did not possess his better qualities. One of these committed a robbery, and was sent to prison for the offence by Judge Gascoigne. Henry was so enraged at the issue of the trial that he struck the judge in open court. Gascoigne, feeling that it was duty to punish the rich as well as the poor, if they deserved it, and to maintain the respect due to his station, committed the young prince to prison. Henry, feeling that his conduct merited censure, submitted. When the king heard of it, he exclaimed, "Happy the king who has a judge so resolute in the discharge of his duty, and still more happy in having a son willing to submit to such a chastisement." We are told that the prince, upon the death of his father, sent for his old companions, and begged them to change the course of their lives, the same as he intended doing.

During the reign of Henry V. nearly the whole of France became subject to England. A young French girl, named Joan of Arc, daughter of an innkeeper in Lorraine, hearing of the distresses of her countrymen, persuaded herself that she was sent by God to their assistance. After much importunity, she was admitted to an interview with the French monarch; and succeeding in persuading him of her divine appointment, she was placed at the head of his troops. It required but

little in that superstitious age to convince them of the reality of her tale ; and from being an expert horsewoman, and fearlessly exposing herself to danger, combined with the perfect reliance placed in her, as may be supposed, she led them on to victory. By the heroic exertions of this one brave woman, the French king, Charles VII., recovered nearly all his possessions. She was at length taken prisoner by the English, and brought to trial as a witch : and such was the base ingratitude of Charles, that he made no attempt to rescue her. She was condemned, and burnt to death.

Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry VI., was a queen remarkable for her ambition, and masculine courage. After her unfortunate husband had been taken prisoner by the Duke of York's party, she fought many battles, in most of which she was defeated. After the battle of Hexham, which she likewise lost, she fled, carrying with her her young son, Edward Prince of Wales. As they pursued their way through the forest of Hexham, they were met by a robber, who would have stripped them of what they possessed, but the queen with great presence of mind exclaimed, "Behold, my friend, the son of your king, I commit him to your protection." This had the desired effect, the robber led them to a place of concealment, from whence they escaped to France.

Henry VII.'s reign was interrupted by the pretensions of an impostor named Perkyn Warbeck, who pretended to be Richard Duke of York, one of the two princes who had been murdered in the Tower in a former reign. Warbeck, who bore a great resemblance to the Plantagenets in features, first presented himself at Brussels, and claimed the protection of the Duchess of Burgundy, as being her nephew. The Duchess and James IV. of Scotland supplied him with troops to assert his claim to the throne of England; but he was defeated by Henry, and, after confessing himself an impostor, was executed at Tyburn, Nov. 23rd, 1499.

Lady Jane Grey was the daughter of the Duke of Suffolk, and according to the historians of that day, a most amiable and accomplished lady. She was married to Lord Guildford Dudley, fourth son of the Duke of Northumberland. Lady Jane was a Protestant, and her cousin Edward VI. likewise being a Protestant, he was persuaded by her father to settle the crown upon Lady Jane, to the exclusion of the king's sister, the Princess Mary, a confirmed Catholic. Upon the king's death, which occurred at the early age of sixteen, Lady Jane, scarcely seventeen, was prevailed upon, much against her wishes, to accept the crown, which she only wore for ten days; at the end of

which time Mary became queen of England, and then commenced that long course of torture which will ever mark her reign as one of the most cruel and wicked in the annals of English history. Lady Jane and her youthful husband were soon after brought to the scaffold; and thus perished one of the brightest ornaments of her sex and country, to the ineffable disgrace of the cruel Mary.

The Earl of Essex, in the reign of Elizabeth, was a nobleman remarkable for his valour and graceful bearing; but at the same time he was of a rash and impetuous disposition, which in the end was the cause of his disgrace and death. He was for some time a great favourite with the Queen; but having, in the course of an argument with her, turned his back upon her, she was so enraged, that she boxed his ears, at the same time making use of the gracious expression of "Go, and be hanged!" The Earl clapped his hand to his sword, and declared he would not receive such an insult were it from Henry VIII. himself. He then withdrew from court in great disgust, but was soon after recalled. However, in consequence of some mismanagement in Ireland, of which he was Governor, and afterwards taking arms against the Queen, he was impeached for high treason; and the Queen, though with

great reluctance, signed the warrant for his execution. But the Queen expected that her favourite would have appealed for mercy; as in former times she had presented him with a ring, which she told him, if ever he were in trouble, he should send to her, and she would release him. As the ring was not sent, Elizabeth, enraged at his supposed obstinacy, allowed the execution to proceed. This mystery was shortly after explained; for the Countess of Nottingham, being on her death-bed, sent for Elizabeth, and then confessed that Essex had commissioned her to take the ring to his royal mistress; but that, at the request of her husband, who was his most bitter enemy, she had not done so; and then begged the Queen's forgiveness. Elizabeth answered, "God may forgive you, but I never can." From this time she refused all nourishment, and in consequence lived but a short time afterwards.

In the reign of James I. occurred the memorable Gunpowder Plot, by which it was intended to blow up the two houses of parliament, on the first day of opening, when it was pretty certain that the king would be present. A party of conspirators engaged the vaults beneath the parliament house, under the pretence of laying in a store of wood, &c. One of the number feeling a respect for Lord Monteagle, and wishing to spare

him, wrote him an anonymous letter, telling him that the danger would be past as soon as the letter was burnt, and cautioning him not to be present. The king, being shown the letter, immediately concluded some plot was afloat, and, with the advice of his councillors, ordered the vaults to be searched the day before the opening, when a man was found, named Guy Fawkes, an officer in the Spanish service, with a dark lantern, matches, &c., in his possession, to fire no less than 36 barrels of gunpowder, which were concealed beneath the wood. He was seized and put to the torture, when he confessed that there were no less than 80 persons in the conspiracy. Several of these escaped, but many were taken and executed.

The reign of Charles I. was chiefly remarkable for the civil wars which ravaged England, between the King and Parliament; they continued for some time with varied success; sometimes the King gaining the victory, at others the Parliamentary forces. At length Charles, having reason to believe that he should be more favourably received by his Scottish subjects, threw himself upon their generosity; but the unfortunate monarch was basely sold to his English Parliament, on payment of £400,000; which, however, the Scotch were anxious should appear as money owing to them. Charles was brought to trial in Westminster

Hall, sentenced and condemned to death. He was executed at Whitehall, his head being severed from his body at one blow ; on which the executioner, whose features were concealed by a mask, holding up the head, exclaimed, " This is the head of a traitor ! " Charles was a wise, learned, and generous prince, and a just and upright man ; but he had the misfortune to possess rebellious subjects.

After the death of his father, Charles II. suffered many privations ; at one time he took refuge in the house of a farmer named Pendrell, at Boscobel in Staffordshire. Here they disguised him as a woodman, and accompanied him to a neighbouring wood ; for better concealment, he hid himself in an oak for twenty-four hours. During the time, he saw several persons pass under the tree, and heard them wish that he might fall into their hands, as a large reward was offered for him. He at length escaped to the house of Mr. Lane, likewise in Staffordshire, from whence, after a time, he escaped over to Normandy.

James II. succeeded to the throne after the death of his brother Charles II. He was at first popular with the people ; but as he attempted to restore Popery, his subjects resisted, and invited over the Prince of Orange, who had previously married James's daughter. His other daughter, Prin-

céss Anne, with her consort, Prince George of Denmark, and most of the leading nobility, then joined the Prince's party. James, when he heard that the child he had so fondly loved had deserted him, exclaimed, "God keep me, my own children have forsaken me." It now only remained for James and his family to flee; his wife, Mary of Modena, crossed the Thames in an open boat, in the middle of the night, and reached Gravesend, where she embarked in a small vessel, which carried her safely to France. The next night the King himself, accompanied by only one or two attendants, embarked in a ship which waited for him at the mouth of the river: but he was not destined to escape so easily; being compelled to stay at Feversham by contrary winds, where he was seized by the populace, who greatly insulted him. The gentry of the place interposed to save him from violence, but he was reconducted back to London, where the caprice of the people caused him to be received with joy and acclamation. But the Prince of Orange sending him word he must retire to Ham, James, fully aware he could place no confidence in the people, escaped to Rochester, whence he withdrew to Amblethese in Picardy, and then to St. Germain's in France, where Louis received him with the same kindness he had before received the Queen.

ANECDOTES
FROM
FRENCH HISTORY.

CLOVIS, one of the earliest kings of France of whom mention is made, married Clotilda, niece to the king of the Burgundians. This princess was a Christian; and by her persuasion Clovis likewise embraced the Christian faith, at least in outward form, for he was an ambitious, unprincipled king. In 507 he led an army against the Visigoths, inhabitants of the land between the Rhone and the Pyrenees: upon reaching the banks of the river, he was at a loss how to lead his army across, when a stag, rushing from the forest, crossed the river in the sight of the army, thus shewing them a place which was fordable; it is still called the "Passage of the Hind." A battle ensued, in which Alaric, king of the Visigoths, was killed by the hand of Clovis; when two of his followers determined to revenge his death, but, owing to the dexterity of Clovis's horse, he escaped. Now the French king had pledged this horse to St. Martin

in case of success; but as the good steed had served him so ably, he was desirous of repurchasing it. He offered one hundred golden marks; but the monks, desirous of a higher offer, would not suffer the horse to quit the stables, which was the signal agreed upon if the Saint accepted the offer. Clovis then offered a much higher sum, when the horse, being unfastened, quitted his stable, to the great delight of the monarch, who, however, exclaimed, "An excellent friend in time of need, this St. Martin, but rather difficult to transact business with."

After the death of Clovis, the throne of France was filled by several weak and irresolute princes. During these reigns the celebrated mayors of the Palace gradually assumed the kingly power, until finally Pepin, son of Charles Martel, one of the most famed of these mayors, completely set aside the kingly puppet, and took the name of king: he is the founder of the Carlovingian race, while those he displaced were called Merovingian. Pepin was succeeded by his son Charlemagne, a wise and brave prince, and who first laid the foundation of the future greatness of France. This prince is said to have had a great horror of fine clothes; he invited his courtiers, one rainy day, to a grand hunting-party, dressed in their smart clothes. After being thoroughly drenched, he led

them back to the Palace, where the heat shrivelled up their furs and costly clothing, and they presented a most ludicrous appearance. Charlemagne, in his plain sheepskin cloak, then exhorted them to lay aside their magnificence, and resume the more sober apparel of their ancestors. To account for this freak of Charlemagne's, it is necessary to observe, that at this time the nobility arrayed themselves in most magnificent clothing: the king observed these signs of degeneracy with a jealous eye, well knowing that if luxury and effeminacy were once allowed to creep into a kingdom, its inhabitants would speedily relapse into a state of weakness and subjection.

In the reign of Charles the Simple, the Danes, or Northmen, as they were called (from whence came the word Norman) invaded France. Charles was defeated, and then consented to bestow his young daughter, aged ten years, upon Rollo, the Norman chief, who at that time had reached his fiftieth year, and to give the duchy of Neustria as her dowry, upon condition that he should do homage, and likewise become a Christian. But when Rollo was required to kneel and kiss the foot of the king, which was the homage required, he exclaimed, "My knee shall never bend to mortal, and I will not kiss the foot of any man." It was then agreed that a deputy should fulfil this

part of the contract, when Rollo commanded one of his soldiers to perform the ceremony. But the rough warrior, either intending to insult the king, or else unacquainted with the etiquette of courts, instead of kneeling, caught the foot up, and thus nearly overthrew the poor king.

Robert, surnamed the Pious, son of Hugh Capet, began his reign in 996. He was a wise and good man, but his virtues were of too meek and quiet an order to fit him for a throne. He married Bertha, widow of the Count de Chartres, to whom he had been ardently attached from infancy. But as they were very remotely related, the Pope annulled the marriage: finding this was unnoticed, he excommunicated the King. Robert then consented to a divorce, and Bertha retired to a convent. He afterwards married Constance of Provence, a very different Princess to Bertha. She delighted in troubadours and minstrels; and poor Robert had many stratagems to keep from her the horde of beggars who always followed him, and were most generously treated. Once he contrived to secrete a beggar under the dinner-table, and from time to time gave him a piece of meat off his own plate. When the dinner was over, it was discovered that the beggar had made his exit, taking with him the gold ornaments from his patron's dress. Whether Constance ever heard

of this, and rated her weak-minded husband as much as he deserved, history does not inform us; but this much we are told, that she ever held him in supreme contempt.

Philip I., contemporary with the English William the Conqueror, was divorced from his wife Bertha of Holland; and then persuaded Bertrade, wife of Fulk Count of Anjou, to leave her husband and live with him. This wicked woman then endeavoured to prejudice the King's mind against his son Louis by Bertha; and so far succeeded, that when Louis, conscious of his father's dislike, withdrew to England, Philip wrote to the King of England, and proposed that that monarch should either kill or imprison the young Prince. This odious advice was not taken, and Louis was dismissed honourably and in safety. Bertrade, upon his return, caused a dose of poison to be given to him; but a powerful antidote was administered in time to save his life, though his complexion ever after presented the most deadly paleness.

Louis the Young, son of Louis the Gross, for some supposed crimes committed in earlier days, and which preyed upon his mind, as a penance fitted out a crusade, which he led in person. His Queen, Eleanor, likewise accompanied her husband, at the head of a body of women, habited like Amazons. Upon arriving at their destination,

they defeated the Turkish army in the battle of Mæander. Afterwards, as the French army was crossing a mountain near Laodicea, they were surprised by the Saracens and totally routed. Louis fought with the most determined bravery; he climbed into a tree which grew on the side of the mountain, and there kept his post till evening drawing in saved him from further molestation: a body of his troops then rescued him. But his army, by this and subsequent losses, and the desertion of his allies, was so thinned in number that he determined to return to Europe. They remained for a time at Antioch, the king of which place was uncle to Eleanor, and one of the handsomest men of his time. While here, the conduct of his Queen caused Louis great unhappiness; and he hastened his departure accordingly. Upon regaining France, he procured a divorce, and Eleanor then espoused the English Henry II.

An anecdote is related of the time of Louis VII., or the Young, which, although simple in itself, shews the enthusiasm of the people for the Crusades. A youth in some part of France imagined that he was chosen by God to lead a band of children to rescue the Sepulchre, and which only could be achieved by the hands of innocent children. He paraded through France in a richly adorned cart to obtain companions for his expedition, and many

parents were so fanatical as to allow their children to join his band. They imagined they had nothing to do but to embark, and the Almighty would guide them to their destination ; but the ships were in a wretched condition, and the poor misguided children were all lost.

Philip Augustus, son of Louis VII., we likewise find leading an army against the Infidels. At this time there was a celebrated Sultan of Egypt, called Saladin, a prince as renowned for his generosity and sagacity as for his bravery. One of the Christian barons, named Reginald de Chatillon, captured a castle on the borders of the Desert, from whence he used to rob all Mahometan pilgrims and merchants passing that way. Guy de Lusignan, at that time king of Jerusalem, was defeated and taken prisoner by Saladin ; who, when the Christian king was brought into his presence, presented him with a cup of sherbet which he had just been going to drink himself. Guy then gave it to Chatillon, who had been captured with him ; when Saladin raised his sabre and severed the robber's head from his body, exclaiming, " The King's cup betokens mercy : princes do not slaughter captive kings, but punish robbers with death."

Philip, son of Louis IX., married, first Isabella of Aragon, by whom he had four sons. Isabella

died from a fall from her horse ; and Philip married, secondly, Mary, daughter of the Duke of Brabant, a beautiful and accomplished woman, and tenderly beloved by the King. There was a certain barber at court, called Pierre de la Brosse, who was a great favourite with Philip ; for in those days a barber was a very different personage to a barber of the present day : he was required to understand surgery in addition to his shaving accomplishments. The Queen, feeling that her husband bestowed too much favour upon this Brosse, expostulated with the King. Brosse, jealous of the power of the young Queen over the affections of the King, became her most bitter enemy, and endeavoured to prejudice Philip against her. One of Philip's sons by his first marriage happening to die about this time, Brosse accused Mary of poisoning her stepson. But her brother, the Duke de Brabant, warmly espoused her quarrel, and offered combat to any one who should impeach the innocence of his sister : and a secret correspondence of Brosse with the King of Spain being discovered, he was condemned to be hung ; and Philip regarded his wife with the same affection as formerly.

When Philip IV. ascended the French throne, he requested, as was customary, that the young king, Edward III. of England, should pay homage for the Duchy of Aquitaine. Now England had

been for a long time ravaged by the civil wars between Edward II. and the Queen's party, which had ended in the King's death. Consequently the English exchequer was in a very exhausted condition; and, although Edward laid claim to the French crown through his mother Isabella being a daughter of a French king, he felt he was not then in a condition to assert his rights. But before setting off for France, he made a protestation that he would do nothing to prejudice his right to that throne. The two monarchs met in the cathedral of Amiens. Edward in a robe of crimson velvet, his crown on his head, sword by his side, and golden spurs on his feet. Philip was seated on a chair; in front was placed a stool, on which Edward was to kneel to perform the homage required of him. Edward refused thus to humiliate himself; but the French not only insisted he should kneel, but should likewise divest himself of his regal ornaments. Edward, breathing revenge, was forced to submit; but on his return to England he collected an army, and, watching a favourable opportunity, returned to France and won the celebrated battles of Cressy and Poitiers.

During the battle of Cressy, Edward the Black Prince charged the French at the head of his own men-at-arms with such impetuosity that they were repulsed with great loss. But a reinforcement of

French and German troops, coming to their rescue, penetrated to the place where the gallant Prince fought. The Earl of Warwick, alarmed for the safety of his Prince, sent to King Edward, who was watching the battle from an adjoining eminence, for assistance for his son. But the King asked if the Prince were dead or wounded. "Not so," replied the messenger, "but he needs assistance." This was refused; Edward adding, "Let him bear himself like a man, and this day shew himself worthy of the Knighthood conferred on him." The bravery of the Prince contributed greatly to the gaining the battle.

After the capture of Calais by Edward III., he strongly garrisoned the castle, and appointed one Emeric of Pavia, to whom he was greatly attached, as governor. But a French baron, Sir Geoffrey de Cherney, bargained with Sir Emeric to deliver up the castle to him on payment of 20,000 gold crowns. Edward, hearing of this treachery, sent for Sir Emeric, who excused himself as well as his duplicity would permit, and Edward forgave him upon his promising to give all the information in his power as to when the castle was to be delivered, &c. Sir Emeric then returned, and fixed the last night of December, 1348, as the time for De Cherney to make his attack. Edward then, disguising himself as a

common soldier, placed himself with 2000 men under the command of a Sir Walter Manney, a brave knight of the English court. Cherney at the appointed time appeared before the castle, and after delivering the stipulated sum was admitted with his followers ; but they were instantly confronted by the English, who were lying in wait for them, shouting, "Manney to the rescue ! What, thought a handful of Frenchmen to take the castle of Calais !" The French were soon taken prisoners, but not without a stout resistance. Edward then invited his officers and prisoners to supper in the great hall. He walked round the table conversing freely with his prisoners. To Sir Geoffrey he said, with some displeasure, " I owe you but little thanks, Sir Knight, who would have stolen from me by night what I gained in broad day." Then addressing Sir Eustace de Ribeaumont, who had behaved valiantly during the affray, he complimented him highly on his prowess ; and taking off a string of pearls which he wore, presented them to the good Knight, saying, " I pray you to wear it for my sake at all festivals, and declare to the ladies that it was given to you by Edward of England, as a testimony of your valour. I discharge you also without any ransom ; and you are free to depart to-morrow, if such be your pleasure." As for Sir Emeric, he was deprived the next day of

the government of the castle, and never recovered his king's good opinion. He was afterwards taken prisoner at St. Omers by his old acquaintance Sir Geoffrey, who put him to death as a reward for his treachery.

The renowned Bertrand du Guesclin having been twice taken prisoner, the Black Prince determined that so formidable a general should not again be ransomed. Both of them, however, being at Bourdeaux, Du Guesclin remarked that his captivity was rather attended with glory than dishonour. The Prince demanded in what the glory could consist; the reply was, that the world affirmed that Edward was afraid to deliver him from prison on account of his bravery; too honourable a circumstance for such a poor knight as himself. The English Prince was annoyed at being accused of such ignoble rivalry. "It is not for fear of your bravery, Sir Knight, that I keep you captive; and to shew you that it is not, you shall have your liberty on payment of 100,000 francs." Sir Bertrand sarcastically thanked the Prince for the honour of rating him so high, and was shortly after ransomed by the French king.

Edward III. having garrisoned the castle of Rochelle, one Philip, an ignorant, uneducated man, was appointed governor for a time. The mayor of Rochelle, suspecting that the governor

was but an indifferent scholar, invited him to sup with him, and then exhibited an old letter with the broad seal of England on it. "You perceive," said he, "that the garrison of the city and that of the castle shall be alternately reviewed by each of the commanders; so, if it suit you, I will review your garrison to-morrow." The sagacious governor attentively read the letter, at least in his way, without understanding one word, and at the appointed time brought his men out of the castle to be inspected, when the active mayor interposed his own party between the troops and castle and compelled them to surrender on his own terms.

Charles VI. held the Constable of France, Oliver du Clisson, in great esteem. He had risen to eminence by his great qualities; but the King's uncles, regarding him as an upstart, entertained a great hatred to him, and, in conjunction with the Duke of Bretagne, prevailed upon Peter Craon, a man of infamous character, to assassinate him. Craon had formerly been banished by Charles for his intriguing disposition, with which the King was well acquainted. Notwithstanding this, Craon contrived to re-enter Paris, where he still rented a house, and equipped his followers with weapons and armour on the occasion of a grand entertainment at court. Clisson left the scene of festivity last of all, and with eight persons passed up the

street of St. Catherine. Here he was attacked by Craon ; but thinking it was a youthful caper of the young Duke of Orleans, he said, " Ah ! Sir, this is a bad jest ; but I pardon your youth and love of frolic." But Craon, attacking him vigorously with his sword, exclaimed, " I am Peter of Craon, whom thou hast injured. Down with the Constable." Clisson fought manfully, but was at length thrown down against a baker's door, by which it flew open, when the baker drew the wounded man in and the assassins made their escape. Charles, hearing of the affair, hastened to the spot and ordered them to be pursued ; but Craon took refuge in Bretagne. Clisson afterwards, although desperately wounded, recovered and resumed his office.

As the Duke of Bretagne would not deliver Craon up to the king, by whom he was demanded, he determined to invade that duchy. Charles rode apart from his troops, attended by two pages, one bearing his lance, and the other his helmet ; while the king himself, weakened from recent illness, suffered greatly from the excessive heat of the weather. As they passed a forest near Mans, a tall and hideous figure rushed out, and, seizing the King's bridle, exclaimed, " Stop, King, thou art betrayed : " after which, the man escaped into the forest. Charles continued his route agitated and

dispirited by this event, when in a short time one of the pages fell asleep and let the head of the lance fall against the helmet which his companion carried. The King, already exhausted by the heat, the sudden appearance of the man in the forest, and former weakness, imagined himself pursued by enemies. In an insane condition he fiercely attacked the unfortunate page, who was nearest to him, killed him, and then assailed his troops; till at length his sword being broken, one of his retinue sprang up, and seizing his arms, held him till he was secured. He remained in this unfortunate state for months, when he partially recovered.

In 1393 another singular accident again brought on a return of Charles's unfortunate malady. A favourite attendant of the Queen's being married, an entertainment was given on the occasion, when the King and five young nobles agreed to appear in a sort of masque, as satyrs. They were clothed in coats of coarse cloth covered with feathers, fastened on with pitch. The flambeaux bearers were ordered to stand close to the wall, in consequence of the inflammable nature of the dresses. But the Duke of Orleans, the King's brother, advancing with a torch to recognise one of the masquers, he unfortunately held it too close, and five of the satyrs were immediately enveloped in flames. The King was standing a little farther off, talking to

the Duchess de Berri, who with great presence of mind covered him with her mantle. One of the five jumped into some water, but the other four were burned to death. The King was conveyed to bed; but in a short time the mob, who had heard of the accident, tumultuously desired to see their King, and convince themselves that no misfortune had occurred to him. The poor King was thus obliged to parade the city to shew that he was uninjured. This, with the dreadful catastrophe already enacted, so shattered Charles's already exhausted nerves, that it again reduced him to a state of insanity, from which he never entirely recovered.

A war broke out about this time between Clisson the Constable of France, and his old enemy the Duke of Bretagne, in which Clisson had the advantage, and compelled the Duke to sue for peace. An interview was appointed between them; and Bretagne, well knowing that he had behaved with great duplicity to Clisson, sent his own son as an hostage for the observance of good faith during the meeting. Clisson however, trusting to the honour of the Duke, sent his son back, and kept the appointment without any security. His adversary admiring his generous conduct, admitted him to his warmest friendship, and as friends they ever after continued. Soon after the Duke, on

his deathbed, requested Clisson to act as guardian to his children, which office the other faithfully performed. One day, however, the Countess de Penthieve, Clisson's daughter, proposed to her father to put the children to death, and take possession of the duchy for his own grandchildren. The noble old man listened to her attentively; then raising himself in bed, without deigning to speak, threw a truncheon which he held in his hand at her head. The Countess, not wishing for a repetition of this parental treatment, quitted the apartment so abruptly, that she fell down the stairs and dislocated her leg, which caused a lameness for the remainder of her life.

In a battle fought between Louis XI. and Charles of Burgundy, the Duke wore in his hat a beautiful diamond; which, after the battle, fell into the hands of a Swiss soldier, by whom it was sold to a French gentleman named Sancy. About a hundred years afterwards, a descendant of this Sancy presented it to the king, Henry III. (who was in great want of money,) to sell it to pay his troops. Sancy despatched a confidential servant with the jewel into Switzerland, but both disappeared. Henry was annoyed at such a valuable article being entrusted to a menial; but Sancy relying upon the fidelity of his domestic, set out in search of him. After great exertion he disco-

vered the body, and had it opened, when the diamond was found. It appeared the poor man had been attacked by robbers, and that he had then swallowed it, to preserve it from their rapacity. It afterwards became the property of the French royal family, but was stolen at the time of the revolution : since which time it has not been heard of.

A splendid tournament was held in June, 1559, to celebrate the marriages of the eldest daughter and sister of Henry II. Henry, who was very expert at this amusement, entered the lists with several lords of his court. On the 29th he tilted against the Count de Montgomerie, who was unwilling to accept the challenge, but the King insisted. Montgomerie's lance breaking on the king's helmet, a splinter unfortunately wounded him in the eye. Falling backwards he was caught by the Dauphin, and removed to the palace, where he survived but a few days. Montgomerie immediately withdrew to England, where he remained some time, till the civil wars broke out between the Huguenots, or Protestants, and the Roman Catholics ; when he became an active Huguenot leader : but being taken prisoner by the opposite party, Catherine de Medicis had him put to a cruel death, for having caused the death of her husband.

In the reign of Charles IX. the dreadful civil wars broke out between the Huguenots and Catholics; and we have a lamentable instance presented to us how far religious zeal will sometimes distort the best dispositions. On the side of the Protestants we find Henry of Navarre, afterwards Henry IV., and the Admiral de Coligny. In consequence of the youth of Henry, Coligny was appointed to the command of the troops; after a few advantages on either side, peace was made between the rival factions, and Coligny invited to court, which he reluctantly accepted: for not long before, the Duke of Guise, a powerful Catholic, had been murdered, and the brave old Admiral had been unjustly accused of the murder. Still more to lull the Protestants into fancied security, Margaret, the favourite sister of Charles, was given in marriage to Henry, who, with his mother, the Queen of Navarre, repaired to the court at Paris. The Queen died soon after, not without suspicion of being poisoned by Catherine de Medicis. Coligny and Henry, however uncomfortable they might feel, still remained: but an event was about to take place which convinced the Protestants of the implacable enmity of the Royalists. In August, 1572, as Coligny was walking from the Louvre, he was fired at from a grated window and wounded in two places, but neither considered

mortal. The assassin was discovered to be a servant of the Duke de Guise. Charles and his mother visited him, and professed great concern for his safety : they appointed a guard for his protection, ordered the gates of the city to be closed to secure the assassin, and the names of all the Huguenots in Paris to be taken down, under pretence of protecting them. Everything continued quiet until the next evening, when upon the given signal, the ringing of the great bell of the Palace, the Queen-mother forced her son, who was violently agitated, to give the command that the meditated attack on the Protestants should commence. The implacable Guise immediately repaired to Coligny's house, and despatched his people up stairs to murder the poor old man ; one of them, a German, plunged his sword into the Admiral's body, which was then thrown out of the window, and the head sent to the wretched Queen, who, after causing it to be embalmed, sent it as a present to the Pope. Then began that horrid massacre of the Protestants, called the massacre of St. Bartholomew, in which more than 5000 persons were indiscriminately butchered, without regard to rank, sex, or age. The king himself, after recovering from his agitation, placed himself at one of the windows of the palace, and amused himself by firing upon the poor victims, as they endeavoured to escape by crossing

the Seine. In the provinces many were put to death; but the governor of Bayonne made this memorable answer to the King's mandate commanding him to put all the Huguenots in his province to death. "Your Majesty has many faithful subjects in this city of Bayonne, but not one executioner." In the meantime the young king of Navarre, now the only hope of his party, was kept prisoner in the Louvre, where threats and persuasions alike were used to induce him to forsake that religion which he had so warmly defended. These at length had the desired effect, and Henry embraced the Catholic faith.

In the following reign, Henry III., brother of Charles IX., the same Duke of Guise who had taken such a prominent part in the massacre of St. Bartholomew, rebelled against the King, and compelled him to leave Paris, to which he soon afterwards returned, when he determined to rid himself of his ambitious subject by assassination. After appointing a public council to be held at eight o'clock on the 23rd December 1588, at which Guise was to attend, he hid nine of his body guards in a passage through which the Duke would pass. At the appointed hour the Duke with his brother entered the council chamber, after which he received a message from the King to attend him in his private apartment; to go to which place he

would have to pass the passage in which the guards were concealed. As he approached the door, he was beset by the assassins, from whose attacks he defended himself with great bravery; but the fortune of the day was against him, and he fell covered with wounds. Henry was so rejoiced that he instantly repaired to his mother, and after informing her of what had just occurred, exclaimed, "Now, madam, I am a king."

In the reign of Louis XIV. a curious anecdote is related, which then, as well as since, gave rise to many conjectures. A prisoner was carefully concealed for many years in the Bastille, who constantly wore a mask, by some supposed to have been iron, but most generally believed to be cardboard and whalebone, covered with black velvet. This prisoner is now supposed to have been an Italian named Matthioli, a minister of the Duke of Mantua, who had been engaged in a secret treaty with Louis, which he afterwards betrayed. Louis, who had a high opinion of his own political skill, not at all liking the idea of its being said that he had been duped by the wily Italian, contrived, by an act of treachery, to get him in his power, and confined him in the castle of Pignerol: from thence he was removed to a state prison on the coast of Provence, where the black mask was first adopted, and where he remained eleven years.

In 1698 he was removed to the Bastile, where the cruel rigour with which he had been treated, was slightly relaxed : he was allowed to attend mass, and to play on a guitar ; but the soldiers had strict orders to fire on him if he attempted to speak. He died suddenly, November 1703, when his face was disfigured, to prevent recognition, in case the body should be disinterred.

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